

Elmer, Linda

From: Jeff Sponcia <jeffsponcia@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2018 9:04 AM
To: Elmer, Linda
Subject: Building on Greenfield Avenue & Layton Boulevard...

Ms. Elmer,

Regarding the potential razing of the three-story building on the southeast corner of Greenfield Avenue & Layton Boulevard in Milwaukee (2635-2637 W. Greenfield Avenue), I encourage you and the committee reviewing its historical significance to take pause and consider the following: if this building is razed, what kind of precedent does that send to the entire Milwaukee community? Could any organization buy a piece of property just to demolish it, no matter how historic, how useful and how well it blends into the urban landscape? This building is over 100 years old and has added character and protection to this intersection and corner that entire time--this is Historic Layton Boulevard, not a random suburban thoroughfare. Also, Greenfield Avenue needs as much traffic calming structures as possible--this building helps achieve that goal. Additionally, it used to be a vibrant location for businesses over the years and it still can be.

Another aspect of this issue that concerns me is the Notre Dame Middle School's master plan. They now own all the structures on this block, but I don't believe the public has seen their master plan, but if what we are hearing is true, their plans to demolish other buildings on this block are very concerning for two reasons. One, what will go in these buildings' places--more parking? Two, the school is apparently growing fast, so what's to keep them from selling this property in a few years to find a larger property? If the middle school demolishes this building and potentially others on their block, it would devastate the character, historical significance and uniqueness of this special pocket of the near South Side of Milwaukee. Granting this building historical preservation would go a long way towards maintaining the special characteristics of this unique part of Milwaukee's history.

We need to maximize the usefulness and preserve the history of Milwaukee's treasured architecture--not pave over it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeff Sponcia
717 S. 36th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-350-1806
jeffsponcia@yahoo.com